

**H.R. 493, TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT**

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 493, to prohibit discrimination based on genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment. Thanks to breakthroughs in science we are able to genetically test for potential health problems. This is information about "potential" health problems that an individual can use to reduce the likelihood of contracting an illness.

Awareness of potential health problems is the first step; but individuals still need health care coverage to access the proper testing and treatments.

During the 1970s, the sickle-cell anemia craze led to discrimination against African Americans and unnecessary public fear. To prevent this type of public fear and discrimination against any individual, this bill bars employers and health insurance companies from discriminating against an individual based on genetic information about potential health problems. The bill protects the consumer, by denying health insurance companies from setting higher premiums based on genetic tests.

Individuals should not be penalized because of their genetic make-up; this is something no one has control of. Just because an individual is Hispanic and a likelier candidate for heart disease, should not lead to a higher insurance premium based on the results of a genetic test. Higher premiums are unrealistic and harmful to American families that already are struggling to pay for health care coverage for themselves and their children.

Parents should not skip out on vital fact-finding genetic tests about potential health problems because of fear of loss of health care coverage or loss of their job.

We need to protect our families and protect their health care coverage. I urge my Colleagues to support H.R. 493.

**HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. ZENIA CHERNYK**

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Dr. Zenia Chernyk of Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania for her many years of service to the Ukrainian people and to the Ukrainian-American community. Throughout the years I have worked closely with Dr. Chernyk, I have seen up close her dedication and unbridled energy that has resulted in tremendous accomplishments.

Originally born in Ukraine, Dr. Chernyk lived in Poland during her childhood years and attended the Medical School of Wroclaw University. In 1964, she was invited to work on kidney and pancreas transplant research at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia. Since this

time, Dr. Chernyk has worked closely with the Ukrainian Embassy, members of Congress, and national and international organizations and institutions to advocate on behalf of the healthcare needs of Ukrainian children with specialized medical needs.

For the past 17 years, Dr. Chernyk has been the Chair of the Healthcare Program of the Ukrainian Federation of America. Through this program, Dr. Chernyk has overseen the development and implementation of a variety of healthcare programs in Ukraine, including the education of healthcare providers and increasing the level of medical technology and research support available to Ukrainian healthcare programs. In addition to this position, Dr. Chernyk also serves as the director of Project Lifeline, a healthcare reform project aimed at establishing rural practice clinics in Ukraine. These programs are a valuable asset in the efforts to improve the quality of healthcare for the children of Ukraine and the Ukrainian community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Dr. Zenia Chernyk for her tireless efforts and service to Ukraine and the Philadelphia area Ukrainian-American community. May her continued service be an inspiration to us all.

**TRIBUTE TO CLARE M. ALBOM**

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Clare M. Albom a consummate leader in physical education, safety, senior and women's issues in eastern Connecticut. On April 26, 2008, Clare passed away.

Clare was born in Ellington, Connecticut, on June 17, 1919. She attended Rockville High School and subsequently earned a B.A. in health, physical education and recreation from Arnold College in New Haven. After graduation, Clare moved to Pasadena, California, and assumed a position with the Aerojet Engineering Corporation, drafting blue prints for jet engines. After 2 years in Pasadena, Clare and her husband, Milton, returned to Rockville to raise a family.

Following the birth of her three children and the untimely death of her beloved husband, she began teaching with her alma mater, Rockville High School. For 15 years, she remained dedicated to girls' physical education at Rockville High School, teaching sports curriculum and forming the Girls' Athletic Activities Club (GAAC). The GAAC, which was a huge success, offered girls in the community an unprecedented opportunity to explore interests in individual and team sports. In 1971, the GAAC received national accolades, when the program was recognized as the most outstanding in the U.S.

Over the course of her career, Clare worked with the Connecticut State Department of Education, evaluating the quality of physical education programs across the State and conducting teacher workshops. Highlights included serving as a master bowling clinician for the Lifetime Sports Education Project and conducting bowling workshops for special education teachers with the acclaimed Kennedy In-

stitute. Her work in physical education has also been solidified in physical education textbooks and national manuals.

In addition to her work in the physical education community, Clare was a passionate advocate for children's safety. Between 1970 and 1979, she served as the supervisor of Health, Elementary and Girls' Physical Education in the Vernon school system. In 1974, she developed a safety education program which was recognized at the State level by the Connecticut Safety Commission. In 1978, she produced a film on bus safety, "Alert and Alive," which also received State recognition by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles and national recognition at the National Highway Transportation Convention in Washington, D.C.

After retiring, Clare was asked by the Vernon mayor, Marie Herbst, to head up the Vernon Senior Center, which at the time was a very small program. Clare transformed the center into one of the most successful municipal senior centers in Connecticut. The center sponsored group trips in the U.S. and abroad, started "The Golden Steppers" dance program, a golf league, a bridge club, holiday events—the list goes on. Even more importantly, the center became an advocate in Vernon, the State capital, and Washington, DC, to create innovative assistance for seniors—ConnPACE, circuit breaks property tax relief and improvements to Social Security and Medicare.

As a State Representative for the town of Vernon I had the privilege to know and work with Clare for the last 22 years. She was a tireless advocate for the center, but even more importantly, for her progressive, compassionate vision of the Vernon community.

Madam Speaker, Clare lived an extraordinary life. Her advocacy and leadership roles in often overlooked issues, including girls' physical education, children's safety and opportunities for senior citizens, improved the lives of our friends and neighbors in Connecticut and across the Nation, and would change the status quo for future generations. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing her life and legacy and offering condolences to her family.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WILL TOWNSVILLE**

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Will Townsville, who was named the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their Club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and state level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to